

September 30, 2011

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services,  
Department of Health and Human Services,  
Attention: CMS-9992-IFC2,  
P.O. Box 8010,  
Baltimore, MD 21244-8010  
FILED ELECTRONICALLY



Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
201 W. Short Street, Suite 310  
Lexington, KY 40507

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Re: CMS-9992-IFC2

Kentucky Equal Justice Center (KEJC) files these comments with respect to Interim Final Rule CMS-9992-IFC2: Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important rule. In particular, we ask that you remove the proposed religious employer refusal provision from your Women's Preventive Services rule.

KEJC is a state-wide, civil legal services organization that works closely with legal services programs across Kentucky. We represent the interests of low-income individuals in Kentucky regardless of their religious beliefs, including the right to access high-quality, affordable health care.

We greatly applaud the decision to make contraception, breast feeding support and screening for domestic violence and HIV preventative services accessible to more of our clients. Because we understand the importance of these services we do not want to see them out of the reach of anyone, regardless of employment or socioeconomic status. Consumers should not be forced to choose between necessary preventative care that can lead to healthy families and their other financial needs, just because they work for a religious employer.

For these reasons, we ask you to remove the proposed religious employer refusal provision and allow individuals to make their own conscientious decisions regarding healthcare. We do not want to see more consumers forego important preventative care because they are denied covered services through their employment.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hadreas, Health Law Fellow